



Michigan Medical Massage Association

Date: September 5th, 2006

Subject: Opposition to the Amos/AMTA Massage Therapy Bill – HB5218

Dear Distinguished Members of the House Health Policy Committee:

I am the Chairperson of the Michigan Medical Massage Association (MMMA) which represents over 2500 medical massage members within the state of Michigan. The MMMA is a Michigan based limited liability corporation owned by the members of the association. While the members of the MMMA support licensure for massage therapists our organization is strongly **opposed** to the Amos/AMTA massage bill.

Our organization, supported by our national association, the American Medical Massage Association, originally initiated the massage licensure process in Michigan and worked with former Representative Joanne Vorhees and Representative Glenn Steil, Jr., respectfully.

Our initial efforts were partially successful in that the Steil bill gained the support of the AMTA, a majority of the massage therapists in Michigan and passed the House before stalling in the Senate.

In early 2006 we learned that the AMTA had subverted this process, had hijacked our bill and then had written our members, their training, and their national board certification out of the Amos bill. Since doing this, the AMTA has refused to respond to any contact from our organization, and we have had limited and unsatisfactory contact with Representative Amos's office.

Our members train in and practice medical massage therapy which is based upon a medical model and scientific evidence, and we do not train in or utilize new age fringe, the occult or psychic practices. In fact our organizational code of ethics identifies these practices as health care fraud, a risk to the public health, and prohibits our members from engaging in these practices.

Our organization and members are opposed to the Amos/AMTA massage bill because:

1. We have not been allowed input into this bill.
2. The bill does not recognize our association or members.
3. The bill does not recognize our training and certification.
4. The bill is self serving to one organization and its members.
5. The bill seeks to adopt the questionable standards of a single massage organization that supports new age fringe, the occult and psychic practices in massage education and massage practice.
6. Because the bill does not address the issue of new age fringe massage, the occult and psychic practices in massage education, the bill does not address the primary concern and purpose of a bill which is - protecting the public health from health care fraud.

Christina Harangozo, Chairperson of the Michigan Medical Massage Association

American Massage Therapy Association mtj online exclusive

The Reiki Touch Kit

By William Lee Rand

Sounds True, 2005

DVD, 2 CDs, 30 cards, workbook (100 pages), \$39.95,

www.soundstrue.com

Reviewed by Lisa Mertz, PhD, LMT

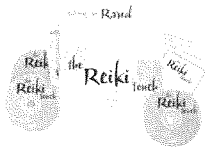
William Lee Rand, a reiki teacher internationally since 1989, defines reiki as a Japanese form of healing based on the concept of subtle energy flowing from the practitioner's hands to a client, to herself or anywhere that healing is needed.

On one of the CDs, Rand guides the listener to open to the power of channeling reiki. The other CD offers music for a reiki session. The workbook is key to the DVD. On it, Rand gives an overview of the history of the Usui tradition and demonstrates how to use specific hand positions for self-treatment and for working with others.

The divination cards included with the kit show photographs of each hand position. Rand also demonstrates Byosen Scanning (noticing areas of the body that need energy) and Gyoshi Ho (sending reiki through the eyes).

At the conclusion of the DVD, Rand uses special symbols to convey a distance-healing reiki session to the viewer though time and space. But he does not divulge the actual reiki symbols, which he explains are meant to be personally transmitted to students in reiki 2 classes.

Although there are quite a few typos throughout the workbook, The Reiki Touch Kit is otherwise beautifully produced. Rand offers a delightfully clear and simple, yet comprehensive introduction to the world of reiki healing.



The American Massage Therapy Association® (AMTA) is your one source for Professional Credibility, Continuing Education and Information Resources in the massage therapy profession. With AMTA, you'll truly reach professional excellence

9/8/2006	Aviana's Mindful Touch Therapy
9/23/2006	Reiki Level II
10/14/2006	Integrated Energy Therapy – Advanced Level
11/12/2006	Chakra Balancing

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Amanda Chihak, C.M.T., M.H.

The AMMA External Affairs Committee is coordinated by Amanda Chihak, C.M.T., M.H. Amanda represents the AMMA at various social, community, charitable, and legislative functions. Recent events have included the Representative Mortimer Golf outing, and a fund raising event for Representative Glenn Steil, Jr.

The American Medical Massage Association is a non profit membership trade association representing medical massage therapists. Medical massage therapists practice medical and clinical massage that is evidence based, practiced on a medical model, and supervised by medical professionals. The AMMA was established in 1998, has members across the U.S., is a Michigan based company and employer, and is represented in Michigan by the Michigan Medical Massage Association (MMMA) which currently has over 2500 Michigan members.

AMMA Position Regarding the Amos/AMTA Massage Bill – HB 5218

The AMMA supports the licensure of massage therapists in Michigan but is strongly opposed to the Amos/AMTA massage bill for the following reasons:

- 1. The American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) has unilaterally developed this bill without input from the AMMA.**
- 2. The AMTA circumvented the consultative process and deliberately wrote the AMMA, its members, their training, and national board certification out of the massage bill.**
- 3. The AMTA has refused all contact and communication with the AMMA, and/or the MMMA, for the past eight months.**
- 4. The AMMA national certification exam, the AMMA NBCE, was originally in the Representative Steil version of the bill but was omitted by Representative Amos and the AMTA. The AMMA NBCE has been taken by over 6000 medical massage therapists, and has been psychometrically evaluated through the Michigan State University, Center for Statistical Training and Consulting.**
- 5. The AMMA NBCE is currently accepted towards licensure in 22 states.**
- 6. The AMTA has proposed to block massage student access to accredited distance education but does not address the issue of training programs offering pseudoscience, new age fringe, occult or psychic practices as part of the 500 hour core curriculum requirements.**

